

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-24 and 30-32 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner takes issue with the preamble phrase “identifying characteristics or properties of molecules” in independent claim 20. This phrase has been deleted from claim 20 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1-4 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashby in view on Finlan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify that the scanning array is “configured to simultaneously scan the nanocodes on the surface of the substrate,” and that the analyzer coupled with the scanning array is “configured to receive simultaneously scanned information from the scanning array and utilizing the simultaneously scanned information to identify molecules associated with the nanocodes.” Accordingly, the system is configured to determine a relationship between a scanned nanocode and a molecule associated with the nanocode so that the molecule associated with the nanocode can be identified.

Ashby describes a surface analysis device in which only information on the scanned molecules are obtained. Ashby does not describe an analyzer configured to determine the relationship between scanned nanocodes and a molecule associated with the nanocodes in order to utilize the nanocodes as tags as described above. Further, Finlan does not describe or suggest such an analyzer.

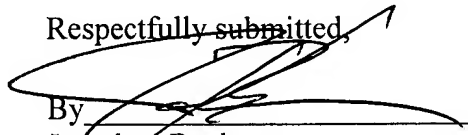
Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 12-15 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **070702007300**.

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Respectfully submitted,


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